

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-07

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P R 290041Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5887

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC

CHJUSMAG PHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA/VIETNAM NAVY VESSELS AT SUBIC

JOINT EMBASSY/MAG MESSAGE

1. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING DELAY IN REACHING A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE CAMBODIA/VIETNAM NAVAL VESSELS AT SUBMIC. WHILE THESE SHIPS ARE CLEARLY BELOW PAR BY OUR STANDARDS, MANY OF THEM ARE CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN MOST OF THE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN THE PHILIPPINE INVENTORY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAJORITY OF THE CAMBODIAN/VIETNAM VESSELS HAVE BEEN REGULARLY OVERHAULED AND UP-GRADED, WITH MAJOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. THE DER, THE WHECS, THE LSTS, THE PGM AND THE ARL WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE ADDITIONS TO THE PHILIPPINE INVENTORY. THOSE OTHER SHIPS IN POORER OPERATING CONDITION WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF VITALLY NEEDED SPARE PARTS AND MODERN COMPENENTS. THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE GOP WANT THESE VESSELS, HAS A RECOGNIZED REQUIREMENT FOR THEM AND HAS THE CAPACITY FOR CARRYING

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OUT REHAB.

2. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS AND THE PROBABILITY THAT MOST OF THE VESSELS ARE NOT SEAWORTHY ENOUGH TO MAKE ANOTHER PORT, WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT THEY BE DECLARED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES, AVAILABLE AS IS/WHERE IS. WE WOULD FURTHER URGE THAT ALL RPT ALL THE VESSELS BE RE-SERVED FOR PASSING OVER TO THE GOP AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST TO BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THESE SHIPS TO THE GOP; FOR EXAMPLE, AT A KEY MOMENT IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASE ISSUE.

3. I URGE AN EARLY AND FAVORABLE DECISION IN THIS MATTER,

WHICH COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT BEARING IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR BASE STRUCTURE HERE. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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